

Representative Fred Finn

Report to the 35th District

- **Prime bills:
Specific measures
cover diverse array of key
issues that impact our communities**

Stiffer punishment against criminals who damage or rob Christmas tree farms is now on the books as a result of one successful measure I prime-sponsored this year.

Representing a very important part of the industrial base in our region, Christmas tree farmers put a ton of sweat and money into their property. Theft and destruction of their inventory devastates them just as much as these crimes devastate other timber landowners.

Another successful bill I sponsored focuses on the Puget Sound Science Panel. The bill emphasizes peer-review in the work for restoration of the Sound's environmental health by the year 2020. The Science Panel strives to identify environmental indicators in developing an "ecosystemwide" scientific perspective that works as fairly as possible for all of the interests involved in the process.

David Dicks, executive director of the Puget Sound Partnership, said that "the Puget Sound Partnership is appreciative of Representative Finn's leadership on this Science Panel legislation, which addresses accountability and science — both fundamental to our mission to restore and protect the Sound." Mr. Dicks added that "this legislation puts the review of science where it belongs — in the hands of scientists — and confirms that the research process will be independent and rigorous.

"It also establishes a process for accountability for the Science Panel, whose members provide critical advice to the Partnership on recovering Puget Sound."

Another one of Washington's brightest business lights is certainly found in the fishing industry — very much including folks who fish our own Hood Canal and other Puget Sound waters. **I was proud to win full legislative and gubernatorial support for creation of public-private partnerships to rescue the McKernan fish hatchery and other hatcheries from closure.**

Late last year, we discovered in Governor Gregoire's proposed budget that many hatcheries could be forced to shut down. But our hatcheries are so very vital in keeping people's livelihoods and businesses afloat.

A fourth successful measure I prime-sponsored authorizes the use of safe, alternative refrigerants in motor-vehicle air-conditioning equipment.

The key objective here is to reduce ozone-layer depletion. These new refrigerants have almost no greenhouse-gas emissions — and their use is certainly a logical, environmentally appropriate mission supported by automobile manufacturers and the Department of Ecology.

Finally, the tenets in my bill **improving the formula for how we fund school transportation** were included in the final education bill that passed in this year's legislative session.

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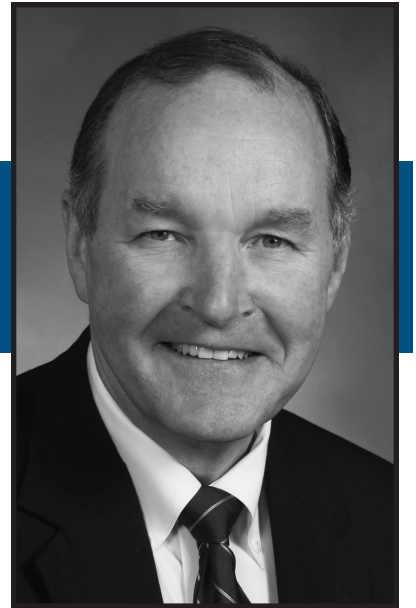
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Summer 2009

Dear Neighbor:

Greetings. This *Report to the 35th District* details specific items on my personal state-capital agenda — as well as some important, general issues we confronted in the 2009 legislative session.

I'm cutting back on money spent in my mailing budget, so please send me your e-address and I'll do my best to keep you informed electronically.

The deep worldwide recession hit us last fall, hammering Washington's families and businesses — and digging a *multibillion*-dollar chasm in our state's budget and revenue standing. The cutting we've done, quite frankly, is beyond a mere tightening of the *existing* belt. **In fact, we've punched another hole farther up the belt. While various new tax proposals were discussed, no general tax increase was approved. The feeling of a majority of the Legislature was that a tax increase during such a severe economic downturn is a bad idea.**

I do appreciate your time going over my legislative report today. My legislative assistant, *Jane McCann*, and I look very forward to hearing from you. Check my Web site for a link to an audio summary of the 2009 session.

Best wishes,

Fred Finn
State Representative
35th Legislative District

Representative Fred Finn

Report to the 35th District

• Budgets: Our state has a lot riding on the operating, capital, and transportation plans

Times change — and *that's* putting it mildly.

Our state faces a multi-billion-dollar deficit. This abyss is the difference between revenue-money we anticipate collecting in the 2009-2011 biennium — and money we'll need **just to continue current programs and services**. The operating budget — no less than the other two budgets — has to overcome the global recession that has devolved into our worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

We are not alone in these challenges; nearly all states are in a similar situation and many, including our neighbors in Oregon, are in worse shape.

The operating budget we ultimately adopted is a short-term strategy to preserve — as much as humanly and reasonably possible — the long-term values that have become the trademark of our state:

- **Guaranteeing a quality education for our students.**
- **Helping families find reliable, affordable health care — especially for their children.**
- **Protecting the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.**
- **Keeping dangerous criminals out of our public schools and other public facilities in our communities.**

That said, this session we ordered huge, across-the-board cuts in state spending. Not a single public service or program escaped unscathed in the rigorous budget-writing process. Just a few weeks into our legislative meeting, for example, we directed \$400 million in spending-cuts in the existing, 2007-2009 biennial budget.

True, federal-stimulus money restored some funding for education and health-care programs. The final budget we sent to the governor, however, slashed almost \$800 million and almost \$780 million, respectively, out of those two areas of the ultimate maintenance-level budget. (The “maintenance-level” budget is the level of spending we would need **simply to carry current programs and services in the 2007-2009 budget forward into the new 2009-2011 biennium.**)

Also, we ordered budget reductions in these areas:

- More than \$503 million in cuts to higher-education spending.
- More than \$196 million in cuts to long-term care, mental-health, and developmentally disabled spending.
- More than \$156 million in cuts to corrections and criminal-justice spending.
- More than \$93 million in cuts to natural-resources spending.

• Capital budget

The construction projects called for in the 2009-2011 capital budget will provide steady, family-wage jobs for hundreds of citizens in our communities. Investments we make in this budget today will help determine the quality of life in our towns and neighborhoods tomorrow.

Here are the major repair, renovation, construction and other projects funded in the new capital budget for facilities located in the communities and neighborhoods of our 35th Legislative District:

- West Sound Teen Center — \$305,000.
- Admiralty Theatre — \$140,000.
- Military Department sites in Bremerton, Montesano, and other nearby Washington communities / emergency back-up generators — \$235,000.
- Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women / replace C building roof — \$219,000.
- Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women / seal, asphalt paving — \$63,000.
- Washington Corrections Center / composting facility — \$180,000.
- Washington Corrections Center / infrastructure — \$900,000.
- Washington Corrections Center / replace fire-detection, suppression equipment — \$1.1 million.
- Twanoh State Park / storm-water improvements — \$250,000.
- Ink Blot and Shumocher Creek — Natural Area Preserve (NAP) / Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) — \$1.7 million.
- Stavis Natural Resource Conservation Area - Kitsap Forest / NAP, DNR, WWRP-urban wildlife — \$1.5 million.
- Lynch Cove Estuary - Department of Fish & Wildlife / WWRP-urban wildlife — \$1.4 million.
- Harstine Island - Scott acquisition / State Parks, WWRP-riparian protection — \$2.5 million.
- Stavis NRCA - Kitsap Forest / NAP, DNR, WWRP-riparian protection — \$1.3 million.



It was great to visit with the Kitsap County Youth Task Force.

• Transportation budget

No less than the capital budget, the state's new transportation budget carries a huge impact on a community's quality of family and business life. Here are the major projects funded in the new transportation budget for our 35th Legislative District:

Highway Improvements Program - Mobility

- State Route 3 - Belfair area / widening and safety — \$2.1 million.
- State Route 302 - Elgin Clifton Road to State Route 16 / corridor study — \$1 million.

Highway Improvements Program - Safety

- Olympic region / centerline rumble strips — \$680,000.
- State Route 3 - Junction US 101 to Mill Creek / safety — \$1.7 million.
- US 101 - Lynch Road / safety — \$475,000.

Highway Improvements Program - Environmental Retrofit

- State Route 106 - Skokomish / fish barrier — \$1.8 million.

Highway Preservation Program - Roadway Preservation

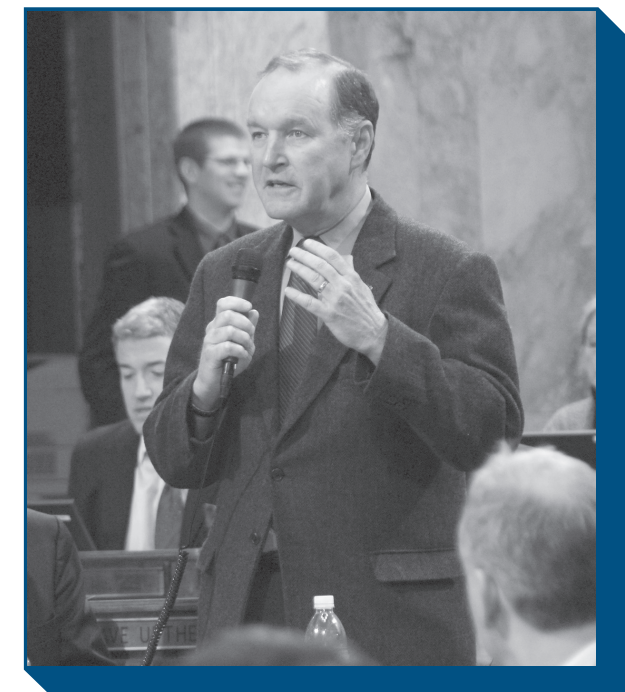
- State Route 102 - Washington Corrections Center to US 101 / chip seal — \$351,000.
- State Route 106 - Union to Twanoh State Park / chip seal — \$879,000.
- US 101 - Triton Cove to Jorsted Creek / paving — \$630,000.

Highway Preservation Program - Structures Preservation

- State Route 8 - Middle Fork Wildcat Creek / culvert bridge, scour — \$3,000.
- US 101 - Purdy Creek Bridge / replacement — \$4.6 million.
- US 12 - Black River Bridge / painting — \$223,000.

Highway Preservation Program - Other Facilities

- US 101 - Hoodspott vicinity / stabilize slope — \$171,000.



I joined in many floor discussions.